

BIG DEBATE CLUB



Smart School Councils

DEBATE PACK

Are you passionate about sharpening your critical thinking and speaking skills?

SHOULD TIKTOK BE BANNED?



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How to Use this Debate Pack

Whether you have just a few minutes or a full lesson, this Debate Pack has got you covered. Check out the Certificates at the end too.

How to find the debate video and send to teachers

1. Log in to the [Smart School Councils platform](#) using your school details.
2. Click on the blue Class Meeting Tool button in the dashboard.
3. Click on 'Next Meeting' at the top of the page.
4. To get started, click on 'click here' to browse existing questions and options.
5. If the debate topic is part of this week's question, it will appear there. Otherwise, click 'Search All' and type in the debate topic you're looking for.

Got five minutes?

Play the debate video straight through and dive right into the debate. No need to pause at the prompts. It's a quick, engaging way to get your students thinking.

Got 10/15 minutes?

Pause at the prompts in the video to explore additional ideas your class might have. Use the additional points or Power Facts if you'd like.

Want to extend to 30 minutes or a full lesson?

Check out the lesson plan and writing tasks below. There is also a full Fact Sheet with amazing further reading if your students want to go deeper on the topic.

What do the icons in the pack mean?



This is what the presenter says on the video



This is a Power Fact to explain or prompt debate that's not in the video



This is an additional debate point that's not in the video

Introduction and Brain Gym Question

Introduction



Welcome to Big Debate Club!

My name is Becky and today we are debating the question...

Should TikTok be banned?

TikTok is one of the most popular apps in the world - whether it is used to learn dances, keep track of what influencers are up to, have a laugh or understand the world around us and the news going on within it - many people love to use TikTok regularly.

But not everyone agrees that it is a positive thing in our lives. Some worry about its ability to take people away from their responsibilities and real life, while others worry about its safety and privacy. But should TikTok be banned or not? You decide.

Brain Gym Question

Before we get started with the debate, I have a question for you...

According to Ofcom research, what percentage of UK teenagers use TikTok as their most used single source of news?

- a) 15%
- b) 28%
- c) 42%
- d) 60%

About 53% of UK children aged 3–17 use TikTok, despite the lower age limit for the app being 13. With millions of young people using the app who could be affected by its content we should debate if it is appropriate or whether it should be banned. (Source: *Checkstep*, [LINK](#))



FOR: TikTok should be banned

We're going to share reasons for both sides of the debate, then it's up to you to think of the rest!

It should be banned due to its lack of safety for children



You might be thinking that it should be banned due to its lack of safety for children. In the UK, despite having rules for their content only being for over 13s, TikTok was fined £12.7 million because it didn't do enough to stop children under age 13 from using the app. It was estimated that *up to about 1.4 million under-13s* were on TikTok in 2020, and their data was used without proper consent, raising questions about how much it protects and creates safety for children.

TikTok is full of addictive content

You could say that it is full of addictive content. According to Pew research, 60% of teens use TikTok daily and 20% of teens describe their use as 'almost constant' showing the content is very addictive - this can result in young people not investing their time in personal relationships and school because they spend so much time looking through their TikTok for you page.

Can you think of another reason why you might argue that TikTok should be banned?



Inappropriate and harmful content is still common



In 2023, TikTok issued over 98 million content removal explanations, including 40.9 million related to harmful or illegal speech and over 1.5 million for sexual content, highlighting how it can commonly cause harm to its users. (Source: Checkstep, [LINK](#))

The government and adults are concerned about its usage



In the UK, 55% of adults supported banning TikTok on devices, especially those devices used by the government. This shows that there is a strong public concern about safety and security risks with having TikTok on your device and the problems this could cause. (Source: Statista, [LINK](#))



AGAINST: TikTok should not be banned


Now let's change positions and consider why you might argue that TikTok should not be banned.

TikTok is a good place for learning and news

You might think that Tiktok is a good place for learning and news. TikTok isn't just entertainment, a lot of teens also use it to learn new things and stay informed. For example, research shows over 1 in 10 12-15-year-olds use TikTok for news), showing it's part of how many teens stay updated.

Banning TikTok takes away freedom of choice

Or you could also say banning Tiktok takes away freedom of choice. It could be said that better rules to protect privacy and safety, like tighter age checks and stronger data laws, would be more helpful than just stopping everyone from using the app, because data collection is an issue across many social platforms, not just TikTok.

Can you think of another reason why you might argue that Tiktok should not be banned? 



Banning the app would be hard to make happen and police

As shown in Australia, even after trying to bring about a social media ban for under-16s, over 20% of teens still used TikTok, showing that bans can be difficult to make happen and punish people for. (Source: Reuters, [LINK](#))



There can be external factors that can prevent academic success

Despite previous issues with harmful content, TikTok says it is improving this as it has a 40,000-strong safety team working to remove harmful content and protect users. (Source: CNBC, [LINK](#))



FactSheet: Should TikTok be banned?

Here's six key facts - three on each side - if you'd like to go a little deeper.



TikTok should be banned

It should be banned due to concerns over data and safety

In the UK, TikTok was fined £12.7 million after allowing around 1.4 million children under 13 to use the platform and collect their data without proper consent. It hasn't done enough to make sure under 13 year olds are protected. (Source: CNBC, [LINK](#))

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The government and adults are concerned by its usage

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TikTok should not be banned

Banning the app would be hard to make happen and police

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Tiktok is educational and creative, banning it stops people's expression

Millions of videos are uploaded daily, including tutorials, educational clips, and creative content, giving users opportunities to learn new skills and express themselves. TikTok allows people to share opinions, creativity, and culture. Studies show concerns that some users already feel content is unfairly censored, especially among marginalised groups. (Source: Checkstep, [LINK](#))

TikTok is trying to make it as safe as possible

Despite previous issues with harmful content, TikTok says it is improving this as it has a 40,000-strong safety team working to remove harmful content and protect users. (Source: CNBC, [LINK](#))

Sentence Starters

POINT

LEMON & HERB: One reason why I (agree/disagree) with this debate is because...

MEDIUM: One point I have for this debate is...

HOT: You could say that...

EVIDENCE

LEMON & HERB: One way I can prove my point is through this example...

MEDIUM: I can show this works through the fact that...

HOT: I know this because...

EXPLANATION

LEMON & HERB: The evidence I have discussed above proves my point as...

MEDIUM: This example proves my point because...

HOT: Therefore, this proves my point as...

LINK

LEMON & HERB: All together, this answers the debate question asked by...

MEDIUM: This point answers the overall question because...

HOT: These ideas answer the debate as...





**Post your debate on
social media!**

SHARE YOUR VOICE

We shout out the best opinions each week

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TWITTER @SSCCTY

INSTAGRAM @SMARTSCHOOLCOUNCILS



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DEBATER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

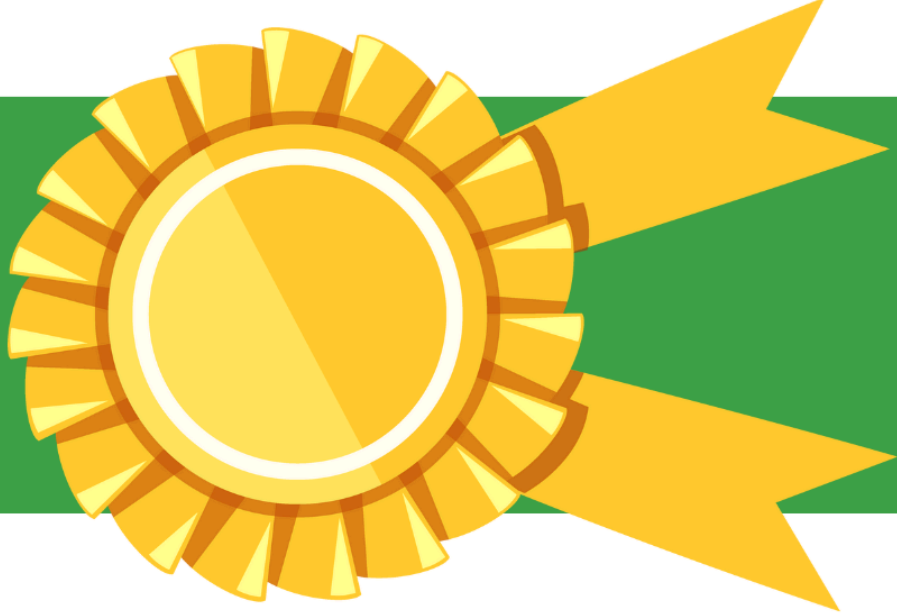
For debating fairly, respectfully and persuasively. Well done!

Share a snap or video @SSCCTY on Twitter for a national shoutout and a prize!



Greg Sanderson

Founder, Smart School Councils



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CLASS MEETING LEADER OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

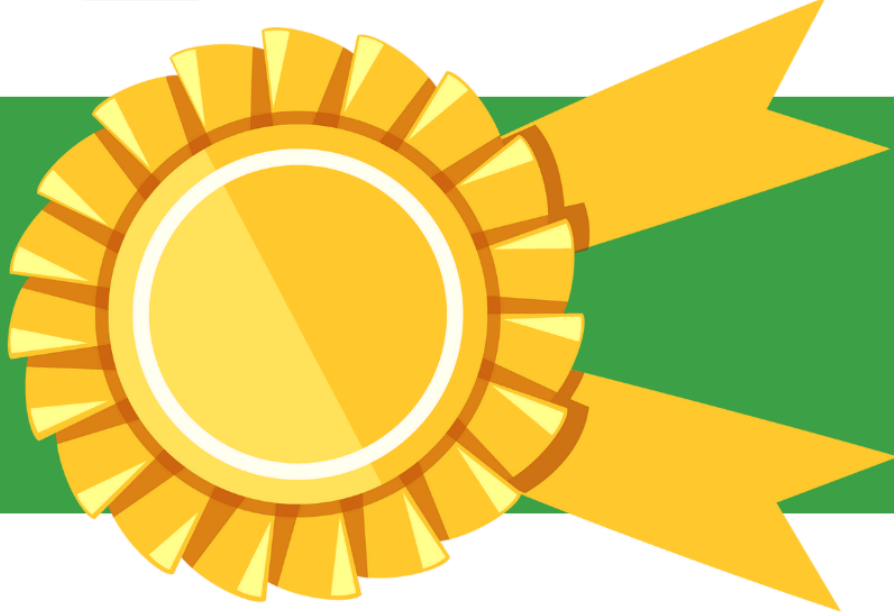
For showing skill and confidence in leading today's Class Meeting.

Share a snap or video @SSCCTY on Twitter for a national shoutout and a prize!



Greg Sanderson

Founder, Smart School Councils



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BEST IDEA OF THE WEEK

We are proud to present this certificate to...

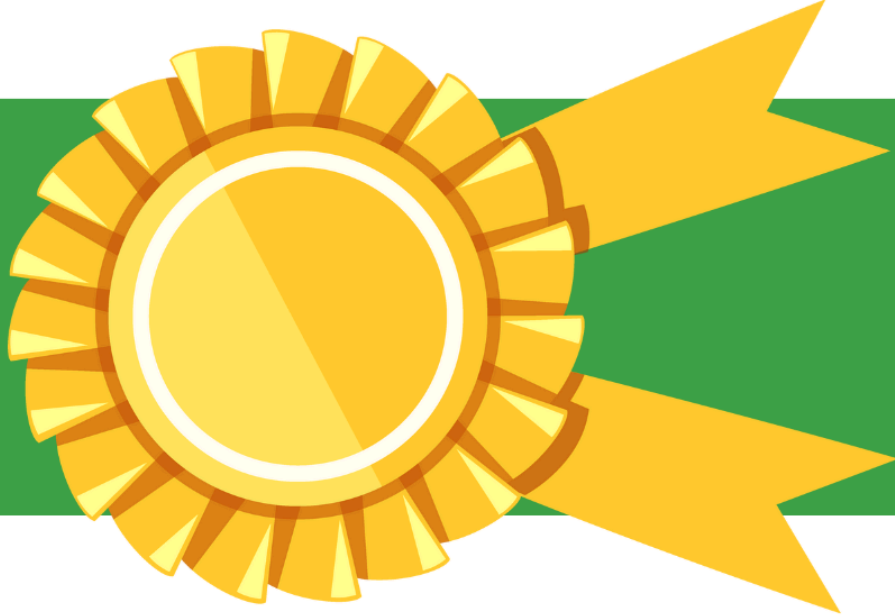
For speaking up with a great new idea on today's topic. Amazing.

Share a snap or video @SSCCTY on Twitter for a national shoutout and a prize!



Greg Sanderson

Founder, Smart School Councils



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